

**April 2018 Edition**

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**Managing HIV and Hepatitis C Outbreaks Among People Who Inject Drugs: A Guide for State and Local Health Departments**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released [Managing HIV and HCV Outbreaks Among People Who Inject Drugs: A Guide for State and Local Health Departments](#). The document includes 19 chapters to assist health departments in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of HIV and/or Hepatitis C (HCV) among people who inject drugs. The guide also includes a checklist of considerations for management of HIV and HCV outbreaks among people who inject drugs.

**Treat Me Right: Strong provider-patient relationships contribute to good STD prevention**

April is STD Awareness Month! VDH and CDC are reaching out to healthcare providers and patients alike with this very important message: **Treat Me Right**. For providers, this involves [many aspects of patient care](#)

– from fostering a trusting patient-provider relationship to ensuring that your patients are correctly diagnosed and treated – and everything in between. For patients, this means knowing [what you can do to stay safe and healthy](#) and how to directly ask your provider for the care that you need and deserve. At a time when [STDs are at a record high](#), it has never been more important to protect your patients' sexual health as a provider, or stand up for your own sexual health as a patient. Having a strong patient-provider relationship is always important, and the stronger these relationships are, the weaker STDs will become.



**Recent CDC Reports Discuss Opioid Overdoses**

The [Vital Signs](#) report discussed overdoses treated in emergency departments across the US from July 2016 through September 2017. The study found that data from

CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program Biosense platform showed opioid overdose rates increased an average of 30% in 52 jurisdictions in 45 states. Opioid overdoses also increased for men (30%), women (24%), and across all age groups an average of 33%. Eight states reported substantial increases of 25% or greater in opioid overdose emergency department visits. The report offers a list of recommendations in order to combat overdoses.

The [MMWR](#) reports that opioids accounted for 66.4% (42,249) of deaths, with increases across age groups, racial/ethnic groups, urbanization levels, and multiple states. In 2016 alone, there were 63,632 drug overdose deaths in the US. Age-adjusted death rates for overdoses involving synthetic opioids other than methadone doubled from 2015 to 2016, and death rates from prescription opioids, heroin, cocaine, and psychostimulants also increased. There is an urgent need to implement a multifaceted, collaborative public health and public safety approach. This can include the distribution and dispensation of Naloxone.

Naloxone is a prescription medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Outside of this purpose, naloxone has no effect on the body, and poses no danger to anyone who accidentally administers it to themselves or someone else.

Virginia residents can request Naloxone directly from a pharmacy without having to visit their doctor first. Some health departments are distributing Narcan (the nasal spray form of Naloxone). Call your local health department before making a trip to get Narcan to make sure someone who can dispense the medication is on site.

Lay rescuer training on administration of Naloxone is ongoing throughout the state. Please visit the [REVIVE! Program site](#) for a list of upcoming trainings. DDP also offers the training periodically. Contact [Advam Redae](#) at (804) 864-7960 for more information.

### VDH Staff Attended Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners Conference

The Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners hosted a conference in March in Reston, Virginia. VDH DDP collaborated with nursing staff from Richmond City Health District (RCHD) to put together an exhibit board and table for the event. RCHD staff, **Christina**

**Jennings** and **Tracey Avery-Geter**, distributed outreach materials on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to increase awareness and information on PrEP. They also collected contact information for nurse practitioners interested in prescribing PrEP at their practices, receiving continuing education trainings, etc.



### Female Condoms back in stock – Order Now!

Female condoms (FC2), or insertive condoms, are now back in stock! Please place your orders.

If you are not already signed up for the free VDH Condom Distribution Program or have not ordered any recently, please contact [Beth Marschak](#) at (804) 864-8008. Both health districts and community partners are eligible, and may order up to 100 cases a year (100,000 condoms).

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## PERSONNEL

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### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jennifer Kienzle** on her promotion to Assistant Director, HIV Surveillance. Jenny has a PhD in Biopsychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BS in Psychology from James Madison University. Jenny joined the HIV Surveillance unit in 2013 as the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP)/HIV Incidence Surveillance Analyst/Data Manager. Prior to this, she was the HIV Care Services Data Manager for the HRSA Special Projects of National Significance Systems Linkages and Access to Care for Populations at High Risk of HIV Infection Initiative, which explored the best evidence-based practices for linking HIV-positive individuals to medical and support services. In her new role, Jenny will oversee all supplemental HIV surveillance programs, including National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, Molecular HIV Surveillance, and MMP. Jennifer can be reached at (804) 864-7986 or [jennifer.kienzle@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.kienzle@vdh.virginia.gov).

### Farewell

Farewell to **Ifedolapo Aderibigbe**, former Behavioral Surveillance Coordinator; her last day at VDH was February 23. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Farewell to **Carrie Walker**, former MMP Molecular HIV Surveillance Program Manager. Carrie's last day was April 13. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors!